



November 15, 2020

Reference No. 11215702

Mr. Gary Baumgarten, EPA Project Coordinator
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund Division (6SF-RA)
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, Texas 75270

**Re: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site
Monthly Progress Report No. 30 - October 2020
EPA Region 6, CERCLA Docket No. 06-02-18 for Remedial Design**

Dear Mr. Baumgarten:

On behalf of International Paper Company (IPC) and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation (MIMC; collectively referred to as the Respondents), GHD Services Inc. (GHD) submits the October 2020 Monthly Progress Report to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in accordance with the *Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent* (AOC), for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (CERCLA Docket No. 06-02-18) located in Harris County, Texas (Site). This Monthly Progress Report No. 30 summarizes remedial design (RD) activities performed during the month of October 2020.

Consistent with the requirements of the AOC, this progress report was prepared on behalf of the Respondents and is organized into the following subject areas:

- Actions taken during previous period.
- Summary of sampling or testing results.
- AOC deliverables Respondents submitted to the EPA.
- Activities scheduled for the next month.
- Percentage of RD completion and potential schedule concerns.
- Modifications to approved work plans or schedules.
- Community Involvement Plan activities.
- Technical Working Group (TWG) activities.

1. Actions Taken During Previous Period

- GHD submitted a *Refinement Notice to Additional Treatability Testing Notice* (Refinement Notice) on October 15, 2020, and the EPA approved the Refinement Notice the same day.
- GHD conducted the geotube filtration step of the additional treatability testing at the GHD Treatability Laboratory in Niagara Falls, New York, as described in the Refinement Notice.



- GHD submitted the Northern Impoundment Waste Characterization Evaluation letter to the EPA on October 20, 2020.
- GHD met with the Coastal Water Authority (CWA) via video conference on October 20, 2020, to discuss timing for receipt from CWA of downstream modeling inputs. GHD is still expecting to receive the model outputs by the end of 2020.

2. Summary of Sampling and Testing Results

- Additional treatability study activities are on-going, along with the necessary laboratory analyses. The excavation and settling simulation tests have been completed and the recirculation/filtration tests will be completed in the coming months. The EPA has been provided updates and shown photos each week on weekly calls with GHD. The results from all testing will be discussed during upcoming TWG meetings and included in the Northern Impoundment 90% RD.

3. AOC Deliverables Respondents Submitted to the EPA

- No AOC Deliverables were submitted during this period.

4. Activities Scheduled for the Next Month

- The Respondents will continue the additional treatability testing described in the *Additional Treatability Testing Notice* and the Refinement Notice.
- The Respondents will continue to evaluate the treatability testing data.
- GHD will continue to meet via video conference with representatives of the relevant stakeholders (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District, Port of Houston Authority, U.S. Coast Guard, Texas Department of Transportation [TxDOT] and others) to obtain any necessary approvals and/or coordination on issues affecting their respective jurisdictions and authorities.
- GHD will remain in contact with the CWA to discuss the CWA's upcoming project to add gates to the Lake Houston control structure and the timing for receipt from CWA of downstream modeling inputs.
- GHD will continue to stay in contact with TxDOT to obtain and track information regarding plans for the Interstate 10 (I-10) bridge replacement project and to address permitting considerations.
- The Respondents will continue efforts to obtain access required in connection with the Northern Impoundment remedy and the Southern Impoundment remedy.
- The Respondents will hold a TWG Meeting to discuss the Northern Impoundment 90% RD.
- The Respondents will continue work on the 90% RD for the Northern Impoundment.



- While Respondents await EPA's comments on the Southern Impoundment Preliminary 90% RD, Respondents will continue to perform necessary RD activities.

5. Percentage of RD Completion and Potential Schedule Concerns

- Overall, the RD is approximately 55 percent complete, based on the current RD schedule.

6. Modifications to Approved Work Plans or Schedules

- No modifications to approved work plans or schedules occurred during this period.

7. Community Involvement Plan Activities

- To the Respondents' knowledge, no community involvement activities occurred during this period.

8. Technical Working Group Activities

- No TWG meetings occurred during this period.
- A TWG meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020, to discuss the Northern Impoundment 90% RD.
- Upcoming TWG Meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 12, 2020, and February 4, 2021.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this submittal, please contact GHD at (225) 292-9007.

Sincerely,

GHD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. W. Munce", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Charles W. Munce, P.E.

SGC/kdn/5

cc: Katie Delbecq, TCEQ
Phil Slowiak, IPC
Brent Sasser, IPC
Judy Armour, MIMC
Ashley Howard, EPA
Lauren Poulos, EPA